

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11 and 14-16 are pending in the present application, with Claims 1 and 5 being independent. Claims 1 and 5 are amended to more clearly recite the features of the present invention, specifically, to more closely focus on the embodiments shown in Figs. 2-4 and 8-11. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Bekker-Madsen (U.S. Patent No. 5,112,427). Claims 9-11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Bekker-Madsen in view of Hirano et al. (JP 10-6594). Claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Bekker-Madsen. Claims 2 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Bekker-Madsen in view of Johnson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,464,120 B1). Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections.

Before addressing the merits of the rejections, Applicant believes it will be helpful to review some features and advantages of the present invention. The present invention, as recited in Claim 1, relates to printing paper comprising a center portion having a rectangular form having two pairs of opposite sides connected by four corners, and a pair of outside portions connected to the center portion at one pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion. The other pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion are not connected to any other printing paper. At least one of the center portion and the pair of outside portions are

formed so that the four corners of the center portion have a round shape after removing the outside portions from the center portion. Independent Claim 5 relates to a label printing paper of comparable scope, the label printing paper comprising an image receiving layer releasably laminated on a supporting layer.

The printing paper (Claim 1) or label printing paper (Claim 5) of the present invention has a pair of outside portions arranged at both sides (i.e., one pair of the two pairs of opposite sides) of the center portion and therefore, it is not necessary to consider the direction of the paper when it is set in a printer. Since the other pair of the two pairs of opposite sides are not connected to any other paper, the printing paper or label printing paper of the present invention does not need to be cut at many sides after printing. This eliminates the need for providing a cutting device in a printer and thereby eliminates the possibility of erroneous cutting.

Furthermore, the printing paper of the invention can be in a compact form and can be easily housed. The present invention also prevents the paper curling problem, unlike a roll of successively connected printing paper or label printing paper.

In Applicant's view, the cited references do not teach or suggest the claimed invention. Although Bekker-Madsen discloses a printing paper in a rectangular form with rounded corners (corresponding to the center portion of the subject printing paper), Applicant notes that all the sides of the rectangular portion are connected to other portions of the same sheet. Thus, the reference does not teach or suggest at least the feature that one of the two pairs of opposite sides are not connected to any other printing paper.

Hirano et al. is cited for its teachings regarding feeding a label paper through a printer and regarding a printing system. Applicant submits that it does not teach or suggest cutting a printed paper and that the reference's only detailed disclosure about a printing paper is that the paper is in the form of a roll. It is therefore submitted that Hirano et al. does not remedy the deficiencies of Bekker-Madsen.

Johnson et al. is cited as teaching the equivalence of perforations and scored or die-cut lines. It is submitted, however, that it does not remedy the deficiencies of Bekker-Madsen.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the present invention, as recited in independent Claims 1 and 5, is patentably defined over the cited references, whether taken singly or in the combinations proposed by the Examiner. The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable for the reasons given regarding independent Claims 1 and 5, as well as for the patentable features recited therein. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

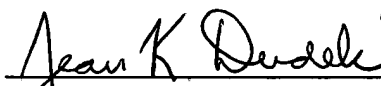
Applicant believes that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration, withdrawal of the rejections and issuance of an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants also respectfully request that this Amendment After Final be entered. This Amendment could not have been presented earlier as it was earnestly believed that the claims on file would be found allowable. Given the Examiner's familiarity with the application, Applicants believe that a full understanding and consideration of this Amendment would not

require undue time or effort by the Examiner. No new claims have been added. Moreover, for the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance. At the very least, it is believed to place the application in better form for appeal. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment is believed to be appropriate and such entry is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicant
Jean K. Dudek
Registration No. 30,938

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
JKD:ayr/dc
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